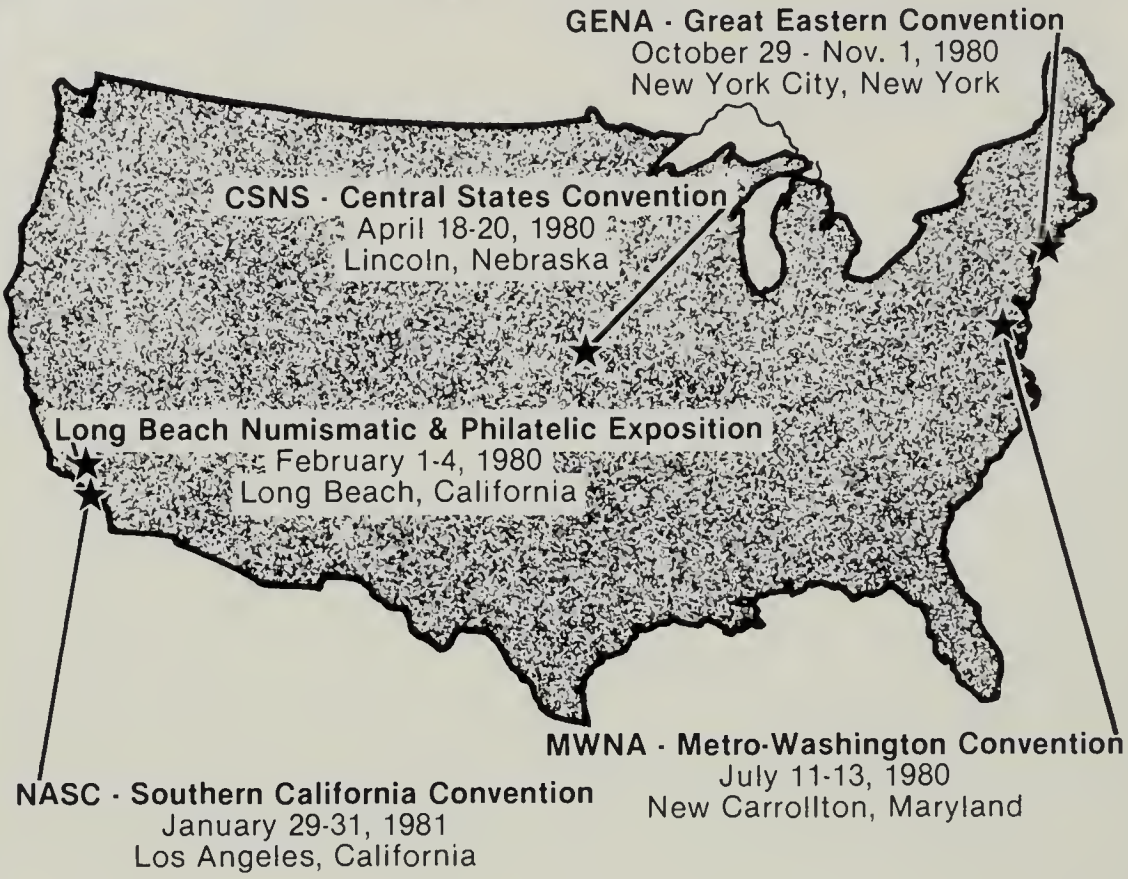
# the centinel

CENTRAL STATES NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Volume 27, Number 3

Winter, 1979

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# the centinel

Official Publication/Central States Numismatic Society

VOL. 27, NO. 3 WINTER, 1979


# A REPORT TO OUR MEMBERS

The Officers and Board of the Central States Numismatic Society met at an interim meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, on Sept. 29 and 30. In the absence of the President, Del Bertschy, who was seriously ill, the meeting was conducted by Ralph Hardman, First Vice President.

The Committee in charge of the 41st Anniversary Convention to be held in Lincoln, Neb., report that no problems exist and all is proceeding very normally. Larry Rowe, General Chairman, reported that the Chamber of Commerce, the Convention Bureau, and all civic organizations were "bending over backward" to assure a most excellent and enjoyable Convention. Ray Lefman, the Board's liason man with the Convention Committee, asked that the Board commend the Lincoln group for the job they are doing.

Legal Counsel, George Hatie discussed exhibit rules. Leonard Owen, Don Mark, and Jack Huggins were named to a committee to study the rules and suggest possible changes in the future. Rules as exist are to be used in Lincoln.

Ray Lefman and Dan Parker were appointed to a committee to study changes in the Convention Manual that were suggested by Mr. B. Stevenson, Chairman of the St. Louis convention. Both committees will report to the Board in Lincoln.

It had been moved and passed at Dearborn that CSNS send a Junior Member to the ANA seminar in Colorado Springs. Kurt Krueger was made a committee of one to formulate guidelines for the awarding of the scholarship. Kurt said guidelines were to include service to the hobby, literary works, exhibiting, and membership in and work for numismatic organizations.

In view of the fact that Louisville, Kentucky, has not responded to repeated attempts to contact them about the 1983 Convenion, it was moved and passed that we eliminate Louisville as host for 1983.

Orlane Kittle asked for and received a Convention Manual for our membership in Minnesota to look over with the possibility of hosting CSNS in Convention in either 1983 or 1985.

It was moved and passed that the Byron Reed collection film is to be loaned only to members or member clubs for group presentation. The Officers and Board attended the Awards Breakfast of the INA in a body. In the absence of any other business, the meeting adjourned.

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# ABOUT THE COVER

This handsome collection of Commemorative Medals of Nebraska origin was gathered by our new cover artist, Doug Watson. The designer of the cover is our latest discovery and we are very proud of his work.

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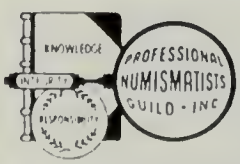


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# PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTARY

The interim meeting of your Board of Governors was held in Des Moines in late September concurrent with the Iowa State Numismatic Association Convention. While I could not make the meeting due to a bout with the flu, it was ably presided over by our 1st Vice President Ralph Hardman. My thanks to Ralph and to the Iowa State group for their fine hospitality.

The Chairman of the 1980 CSNS Convention in Lincoln, Neb., Larry Rowe, and his committee made a comprehensive report on progress. Plans are preceeding on schedule and we can look forward to a top notch convention.

In other actions, we established committees to review both the Convention Manual and exhibit rules for future conventions beyond Lincoln.

And you will be interested to know that Kurt Krueger has been appointed to select a junior member to attend the Summer Seminar of ANA — selection criteria to include such things as service, exhibiting, and work for numismatic organizations.

Helen Sedo, Chairperson of the 1979 Convention, presented the final report from Dearborn along with a check in a substantial amount. Thanks again, Helen, for an outstanding convention.

The next issue of The Centinel carries the list of nominees for the CSNS Officers and Board along with their biographies. Please review them carefully. Your considered selections are important to the future success of this fine organization.

Convention time is drawing near. Make your plans and reservations now so you will be able to participate in a great show in Lincoln on April 18, 19 and 20, 1980.

A. P. "Del" Bertschy, President

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

The most important thing I have to say to you in this issue is — please be sure to read carefully the biographies of the candidates for office in your organization when they appear in The Centinel. We were hoping that they would appear in this issue but time seems to be working against us. However, they will appear before you cast your ballot. The people you elect will have the job of taking care of the rules, activities, and the money that belongs to you. Give careful consideration to your vote.

I must also remind you not to void your ballot. Our By-Laws provide that not more than two candidates for the Board from any one state may be elected. Since the candidates are listed on the ballot in the order in which I receive their acceptance, the home state of each may be confusing. The ballots are not opened until the election committee is appointed in Lincoln. Be sure to cast your ballot. It is your obligation to the Society.

I have taken the liberty of having a list of names published. These persons have been dropped from membership either for non-payment of dues or for having The Centinel returned marked "not at this address." We have not done this to embarrass anyone. It has been done with the intent of recovering some members. If you know of any person whose name appears on the list, contact them and persuade them to return to the fold.

I have been asked why I continue to send The Centinel to members who are in arrears in their dues. I understand how easy it is to either misplace or overlook dues notices I send out. We don't want to lose members for this reason. I applaud you who send your dues so promptly. It makes my job easier.

The entire Board missed our President at the interim meeting in Des Moines. We're glad you are feeling better, Del!

We talked to the Lincoln people and they seemed so full of spirit and confidence one has to believe the 1980 Convention will be one of the best ever. Plan now to reserve that time, April 17 - 20, for CSNS. Hotel reservation cards will be sent out with The Centinel prior to the Convention or you can contact the Committee at: P. O. Box 30011, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503. Hope we can be together there!

---

The Polish Zloty equalled 30 groats. Since 1924 it has equalled 100 groats. For the purist, the groat in Poland is a Grosz!

# NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

## REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

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|---|---|---|
| 3295 | Mark S. Wallace | Hickory Hils, Illinois |
| 3296 | Clarence A. McKee | Oskaloosa, Iowa |
| 3297 | Herman A. Benson, Jr. | Mission, Kansas |
| 3298 | Curt Langford | Norwalk, Iowa |
| 3299 | Al Moskowitz | Des Moines, Iowa |
| 3300 | Bill Shamhart | Warrensburg, Missouri |
| 3301 | Nick Gerbinski | Winnepeg, Manitoba, Canada |
| 3302 | Jeffery P. Bergelt | New York, New York |
| 3303 | Thomas A. Mulvaney | Englewood, Ohio |
| 3304 | David E. Smies | Manhattan, Kansas |
| 3305 | Steven B. Powell | Manhattan, Kansas |
| 3306 | Bruce Merrill | Omaha, Nebraska |
| 3307 | William Gay | Abertson, New York |
| 3308 | Robert Graham | Ravenna, Nebraska |
| 3309 | David Edwards | Omaha, Nebraska |
| 3310 | Blu Grayson | Hutchinson, Kansas |
| 3311 | Jim Pearce | Fairfax, Missouri |
| 3312 | Debra S. Hoaglund | Hunt Valley, Pennsylvania |
| 3313 | Roy Hoaglund | Hunt Valley, Pennsylvania |
| 3314 | Harold Pemberton | Jacksonville, Arkansas |
| 3315 | Jerry Moskowitz | Bronx, New York |
| 3316 | Jim Aksamit | Grand Island, Nebraska |
| 3320 | Paul A. Yopchick | Oglesby, Illinois |
| 3321J | Wayne Hohndorf | Omaha, Nebraska |
| 3322 | Lowell Howey | Lincoln, Nebraska |
| 3323 | Cecil B. Schmitt | Lincoln, Nebraska |
| 3324 | Bruce Kutcher | Boston, Massachusetts |
| 3325 | Randy Block | Flemington, New Jersey |
| 3326 | Stanley Furman | Chicago, Illinois |
| 3327 | Paula Farrell | Chicago, Illinois |
| 3328 | Charles Wolfe III | Clyde, Ohio |
| 3329 | David L..White | Houghton, Michigan |
| 3330 | Robert Kinsey | Lincoln, Nebraska |
| 3331 | Joe Ziegler Jr. | Kansas City, Missouri |
| 3332 | Anthony R. Guerrer | North Richland Hills, Texas |
| 3333 | Earl R. Johnson | Kansas City, Missouri |

## LIFE MEMBERS APPLICANTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 191 | Edward P. Davis | Leawood, Kansas |
| 192 | William J. Ulrich | Minneapolis, Minnesota |
| 193 | Scott Travers | New York, New York |
| 194 | Fred A. Murphy | Lancaster, Ohio |
| 195 | Edward C. Schalk | Boulder, Colorado |
| 196 | Daryl L. Mercer | Boulder, Colorado |
| 197 | Dennis Heller | Minneapois, Minnesota |

The following have been suspended from The Centinel mailing list either for non-payment of dues or The Centinel being returned marked "not at this address."

Jimmy Adrian
Alice Anderson
Harold Anderson
A. E. Atwood
Sally Atwood
T. E. Bader
Clement F. Bailey
Hershey E. Barnett
Thomas J. Becker
Suzanne Berk
Michael Betancourt
Jan Bronson
Frank Cafaro
Charles Carter
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Wayne A. Imbrogno
Ronald Iskowitz
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Scott P. Johnson
Helen I. Kennedy
Stewart B. Koppel
Tom Jones
M. A. Powills
Bernard Allgeier
John T. Alvey
Leo Vince Davis
John C. Daugherty
Martin J. Delger
Gary Dunaier
David Edison
Kenneth A. Eikeland
Jack Field
Ernie Fleck
Gregory J. Gackill
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| 1938 | $1,100.00 | 61-64 | $9.75 |
| 1939 | $1,000.00 | 65 SMS | $3.00 |
| 1940 | $675.00 | 66 SMS | $3.00 |
| 1941 | $650.00 | 67 SMS | $6.00 |
| 1942 | $650.00 | 68-69 | $3.85 |
| 1942 (6) | $775.00 | 1970 | $8.00 |
| 1950 | $340.00 | 71-72 | $3.50 |
| 1951 | $245.00 | 1973 | $8.25 |
| 1952 | $150.00 | 1974 | $8.25 |
| 1953 | $86.00 | 1975 | $21.00 |
| 1954 | $52.00 | 1976 3 pc | $12.00 |
| 1955 | $50.00 | 1976 | $6.25 |
| 1956 | $15.00 | 1977 | $7.50 |
| 1957 | $12.00 | 1978 | $17.50 |
| 1958 | $13.50 | 1979 | $16.50 |
| 1959 | $12.25 | | |

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# RUSSIAN - SOVIET INFLUENCE ON THE PAPER MONEY OF OUTER MONGOLIA

**By Victor C. Seibert**

In reality the paper money of Outer Mongolia owes its very existence, its pattern, and in part its quantity to Russia and the Soviet era. Until 1924, the Outer Mongolia region had littel or no use for banks, currency or coins. Instead of these they were using their own equivalents for national and international trade. These equivalents were in the form of hides, furs, kumiss (fermented mare's milk), gold, copper, horses, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, wool, and tin. Their imports consisted of green tea, tobacco, flour, and cotton goods. The products produced were not large and were mainly transported by camel caravans of 1,000 camels each between Kalgan and Urgan (Ulan Bator).

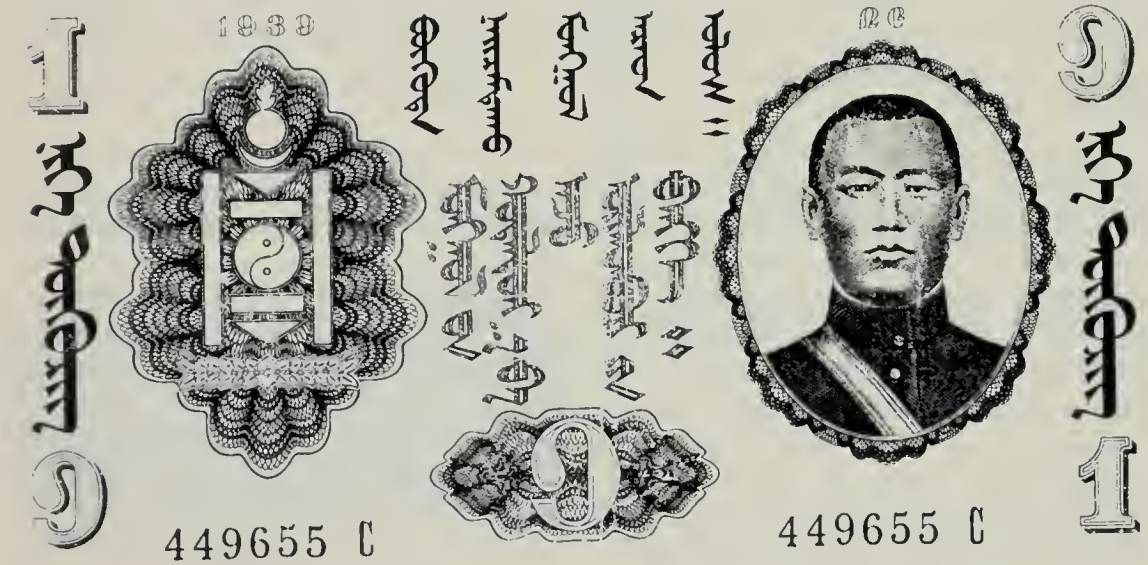
One camel transported a 500-pound load over the 800-mile distance in 30 to 40 days, for which the driver charged $40 freight fee. He was paid for this in goods or in paper money of China, United States, Great Britian, or Russia. Industrially, very little progress had been made as one brick factory, one saw mill, and one tannery were the sum total of their industrial establishments. Agriculture progress, too, was slow but milk and beef production was up due to the development of the Hainag-A cross of the cow and the yak. The Mongolians lived a nomadic life herding their flocks and herds on the bitterly cold, wind swept plateaus and plains. They lived in felt yurts maturing into a hardy race that was shy of foreigners and satisfied with their type of life.

But by 1925 the U. S. S. R. had recovered sufficiently from the effects of their civil war and the foreign interventionists to expand its international trade and by so doing came in direct contact with their southern neighbor — Outer Mongolia. Actually, as far back as 1915 Russia's infleunce was being applied in Outer Mongolia. The "Tripartite Treaty" signed at Kyahta by Autonomous Mongolia, Republican China, and Czarist Russia placed Outer Mongolia into an ambiguous legal status — Autonomous, yet it had to recognize Chinese suzerainty and Russia's control over its foreign relations. Russia's interest in having outer Mongolia as a buffer state against the Chinese was already publically made known when in 1916 Lenin wrote: "We shall exert every effort to foster association and merger with the Mongolians, Persians, Indians, and Egyptians. We believe it is our duty and in our interest to do this for otherwise Socialism in Europe will not be secure."

The Moscow talks in 1920 paved the way for friendly ties between Soviet Russia and the patriotic forces of Mongolia. Lenin took keen interest in Soviet-Mongolian friendship from the very outset. Noteworthy in this respect is his conversation with the Mongolian delegates in the Kremlin on November 5, 1921. During that meeting, Lenin, replying to a question about his attitude to the creation of a people's revloutionary party in Mongolia, said: "The only correct path for the working people of Mongolia is a struggle for state and economic independence in alliance with the workers and peasants of Soviet Russia." Lenin then went on to discuss in detail the question of Mongolia's non-capitalistic development which he had mentioned previously in the second Congress of the Comity on July 26, 1920.

The non-capitalistic path meant that the Mongolian people had to end economic domination of feudalism. This implied the elimination of feudal owners and preventing the development of capitalist elements and stopping all attempts by foreign capitalists — Japanese, American and British — to gain a foothold in the country. To achieve these ends, in 1921 and 1922 the Mongolian people's government abolished all class privileges of feudal lords. It also abolished serfdom and nationalized the lands. To eliminate feudal political rule, it set up democratic organs of power — Peoples Khurals — throughout the country.

Soviet-Mongolian relations and their gradual consolidation, coupled with Soviet assistance to the Mongolian people, were a decisive factor in achieving these general democratic objectives of the Mongolian revolution. Along with military, economic, and cultural assistance the Soviet government took several other measures to help Mongolia to assert its economic independence. In 1924 the Soviet People's Commissariat of Finance helped to establish the Mongolian trade and industrial bank which became an important agency in strengthening economic relations between the USSR and Mongolia — developing the country's trade and industry and strengthening Mongolian finances.



The establishment of the Mongolian National Bank — the first Asiatic bank to be set up without the financial capital of imperialist states, enabled Mongolia to introduce its own currency in 1925. To assure the normal functioning of the bank, the Soviet Union granted Mongolia a loan of one million rubles. As Mongolia adopted its own currency it eliminated the barter system to a great extent and also the use of the bank notes of China, Russia, United States, Great Britian, Japan, and others that had all been floating in small quantities in Mongolia.

To explain further the background of Mongolian paper money, the Russian civil war and foreign interventionist period has to be briefly mentioned again. This war destroyed the "Tripartite Treaty" of 1915. In 1920 anti-communist forces led by Baron Alexander Von Ugarn Sternberg (usually identified as Ugern) took refuge in Outer Mongolia as a result of the consolidation of Bolshevik control of eastern Siberia. However, not long thereafter Red army troops, accompanied by a small Mongolian detachment destroyed the anti-communist white guard forces on Outer Mongolian soil July 6, 1921 at Urga. After that the Russian-Soviet influence has been a permanent force.

However, the Mongolian Jehtsun Danba Khutukhta remained as the head of the country until his death in 1924. At that time the country officially became known as the Mongolian Peoples Republic and the city of Urga became known as Ulan Bator (Red Herd). Khorloin Choibialsan and Sukhe Bator formed and led the early revolutionary movement and Choibialsan served as the first premier of the republic.

The Yalta agreement of February, 1945, called for a Mongolian plebiscite by October, 1945. The voters endorsed independence. In 1957, the Mongolian Peoples Republic endorsed the U.S.S.R. foreign policy: pledged continued economic and cultural cooperation. The U.S.S.R., in turn agreed to give Mongolia their part of a mineral development called Sovmongolmezl, the Soviet airports at Ulan Bator and Sain Shauda, and to sell them the oil trust called Mongolnaft. In 1965, the U.S.S.R. granted the Mongolian Peoples Republic 495 million rubles credit to fulfill the five-year plan and they also delayed the repayment of a previous debt of 174 million rubles. The new credit was extended at the rate of two and one-half percent.

Baron Ungern was in charge of affairs in Outer Mongolia in 1921 and he introduced a "national currency" in the form of six percent short term obligations. These were backed by such national resources as camels, wool, horses, hides, and goats. These were printed in denominations of 10, 25, 50 and 100 dollars and were to circulate on the same basis as foreign currency. The obverse of these obligations stated that they were valid from August 20, 1921 to November 20, 1921 and that during this period the bearer would be paid on demand the amount of the note in local coins. The notes were signed by the minister of finance and the counsellors of the ministry. It also contained this inscription in Mongolian, "This short term obligation is equivalent to currency and may be used by all government bodies, institutions, and establishments. Valid for exchange to currency until 20 November this year. In case of difficulties the obligation may be redeemed during the next five years. The short term obligation increases in value by six percent each year. This increment will be paid together with the local currency due when the note is exchanged by the Ministry of Finance."

The obverse of the 10 dollar had a picture of a ram; the 25 dollar a cow; the 50 dollar a horse; and the 100 dollar a camel. The value of the animals

(Continued on Page 12)

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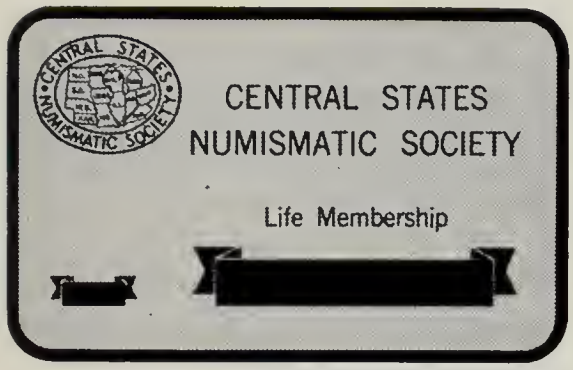


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equalled the value of the obligation notes. The bottom edge of the obverse had the stylised image of the fish and the inscription in English and Russian: "Payable to the bearer on demand in local currency on or after 20 November 1921." These obligations were not circulated and were withdrawn because the Ungern regieme collapsed July 6, 1921 (before their valid date). A very few apparently escaped destruction and are therefore rated extremely rare.

When the Mongolian Peoples Revolutionary government had completed their organization they placed an order with U.S.S.R. to print state treasury notes. These were denominations of 1, 3, 5, 10 and 25 dollars printed on firm paper in bright decorative colors. On the obverse in Mongolian it states: "Mongolian State Treasury Notes," the value, year 1921, and signatures of Dava, finance minister. A warning to counterfeiters appears on the notes. These notes had an extremely small circulation since the Monoglian Peoples Republic had decided to have their own monetary units: tugrik (ruble) and mungo (kopeck).

December 9, 1925 the Mongolian Commercial and Industrial Bank issued its first tugrik notes. The denominations and colors were: 1 yellow, 3 green, 5 blue, 10 red, 25 grey, 50 green, 100 blue and red. The obverse of all these notes have the value in Mongolian numerals, and at the top "Mongolian Commercial and Industrial Bank." The signatures are: Mongolom, chairman; Amar and Mikhonov, members; and Bolshikhov, cashier. On the reverse is the Republic's ancient emblem called the "Soembo." Briefly, the flame at the top represents the family hearth and state; the three tongues of the flame stand for the past, present and future generations. Under the flame the circle and half moon are symbols of light and eternity; the two vertical columns symbolize the support and strength of the state; the two triangles symbolize the weapons of protection; horizontal bands are symbols of books and knowledge. In the center the circle formed by the stylized fish is the symbol of polar opposites. The open eyes of the fish represents the constant vigilance of the state. These notes were replaced in 1939.

In 1939 the Mongolian Peoples Republic Commercial and Industrial Bank issued new notes as follows: 1 Tugrik green, 3 green, 5 bue, 10 red, 25 grey, 50 green, and 100 light blue. The obverse has the words: "Mongolian Peoples Republic Commercial and Industrial Bank." It also has the "Soembe" emblem and portrait of Suhe Bator. The reverse contains a warning to counterfeiters and

(Continued on Page 16)

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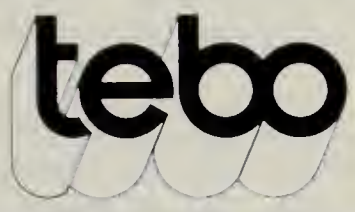


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# COINS — UTILITARIAN OR ARTISTIC ?

**By Robert R. Kutcher**

Most of the first coins made by the ancient Greeks were either gold or silver. Both were metals of great beauty, both were easily struck by the soft dies of the time, and both were found in the naturally pure state. The Greeks recognized that coins were a completely new art form and capitalized on this new medium for art!

Kings and leaders of states sought to employ the finest artists and master craftsmen to make their coins. Much pride was taken by the people in the beauty of their coins. Good die sinkers were at a premium for many years and were regarded as artists. Conversely, sculptors who worked in marble and stone and even great architects and vase painters were regarded as minor artisans. Die makers also worked with precious stones, ivory, gold, silver, and bronze, but were usually better appreciated for their coin dies.

Theodoros, one such die maker, was considered a genius for the exquisite dies, and is still famous for his artistic work in fine metals and jewels. His work is even mentioned in some legends. His technical inventions were the set-square, the level, the vise, the lathe, and a special method of hollow casting bronze. These innovations are seldom mentioned, however, because of his fame for artistic beauty.

Another famed gem engraver was Mnesarchos, the father of Pythagoras, who also worked at times as an engraver of coin dies. Pythagoras learned his basic mathematics through his apprenticeship as an engraver, but turned to philosophy, poetry, music, and even turned to politics in his later life.

As time passed, the artistic rewards of coinage were forgotten because of the demand for more and more coins for business. Master engravers were few and costly — so design was subordinated to satisfy the demands of commerce. As commerce grew, more denominations of coins were needed in business and cheaper metals were used for smaller coins. Copper, bronze and even lead were used, and finally, the permission to allow base metals to cheapen all coins.

Today, as in ancient times, the utilitarian aspects of coinage have done away with the artistic side of our coins. (Witness the Susan B. Anthony dollar as opposed to the beautiful Liberty design of our own Frank Gasparro.) The die engraver today must first think of the ultra high-speed coinage presses, the limits of the reducing lathe, as well as the hardness of the metal the new coin is to be made of.

Then his design must pass the inspection of various people — primarily political (Congress and mint officials). He must also work into the design the various mottos and phrases, along with the date and denomination. This leaves him very little room for artistic expression.

The ancients had the whole of the flan for the portrait and main devices. And, too, the ancients had beautiful silver and gold to work with — not sandwiched copper and nickel!! A shame!!!

---

A total of $509.48 for every man, woman or child is in circulation in the United States in the form of paper money and coins. This according to the June Treasury Bulletin. O. K., who has $495.00 of my money??

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NOTE TO CLUB OFFICIALS: Interested in hosting a future CSNS Convention? It is not too early to begin thinking of the future! Submit your letter of invitation to the CSNS Secretary-Treasurer at your earliest convenience. Your request will receive the prompt attention of the Officers and Board of Governors.

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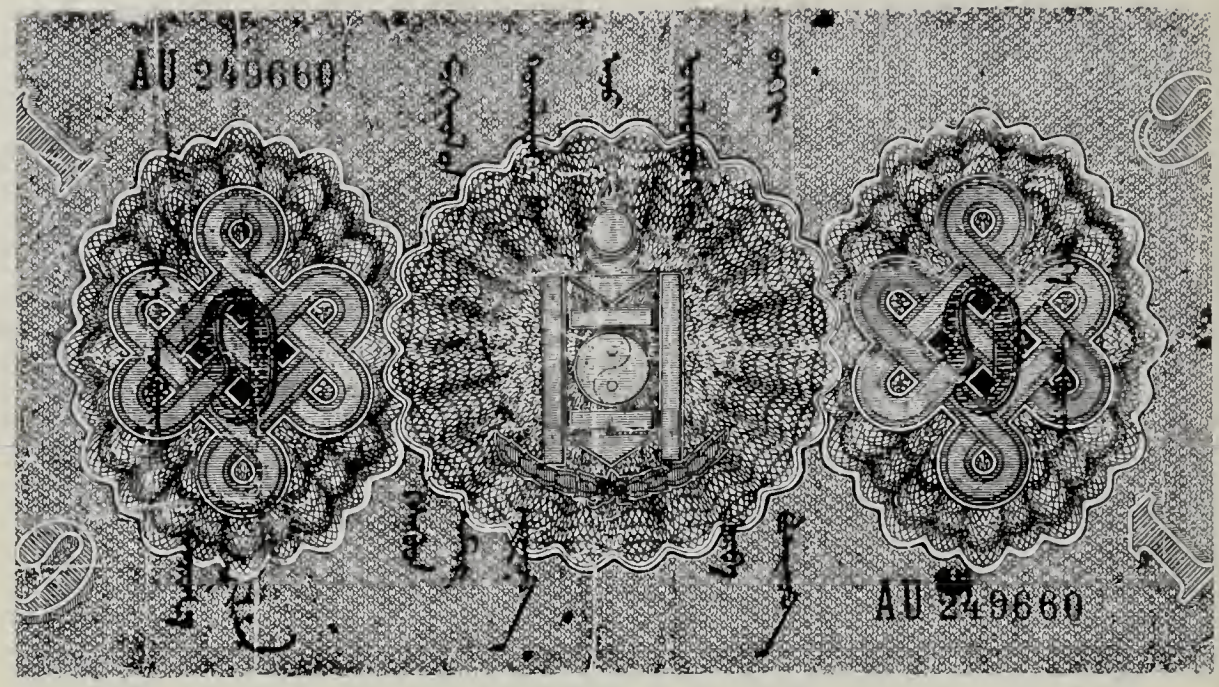

an inscription that the notes are secured by precious metals, foreign currency, and other commodities at the bank. These notes were replaced by the 1941 notes.

The 1941 issue notes have a newer emblem that replaced the ancient "Soemba," and the old Mongolian script was replaced with one based on the Russian alphabet. The colors and denominations of the 1941 series were the same as the 1939 series. On the obverse is the identity, value, portrait of Suhe Bator and the new emblem. This emblem shows a cowherd on a galloping horse with a rising sun background. The heads of the ram, camel, goat and cow ornament the emblem. Below the emblem are the words in old Mongolian: "Mongolian Peoples Republic." The notes were printed in the U.S.S.R. They were replaced by the 1955 issue.

The 1955 issue had the 1 Tugrik yellow, 3 green, 5 blue, 10 red, 25 grey, 50 blue, and 100 light blue. They were printed in the USSR. The obverse reads,

"Mongolian Peoples Republic State Bank." Information that the note is secured with precious metals, foreign currency and other assets at the bank; a portrait of Suhe Bator; and the new state emblem. The reverse warns counterfeiters. New script was used on these notes. This issue was replaced by the 1966 series.

The 1966 series of notes are smaller and a new emblem appears on them. The heads of grain ornament the rider and the Socialist star appears on top of the emblem. The obverse also has the portrait of Suhe Bator. The notes were issued by the Mongolian Peoples Republic State Bank in these denominations and colors: 1 Tugrik brown, 3 green, 5 blue, 10 red-brow, 25 brown-violet, 50 green, and 100 brown. The reverse is in a spash of color. English and new Mongolian numbers are used.

Even within the past 40 years, the U.S.S.R. has come to the aid of the Mongolian Peoples Republic. For example, in May to August, 1939, the Japanese invaded Mongolia at Khalkhyn. However, they were repulsed by the combined forces of the Soviet army, Soviet Pacific fleet, the Amur flotilla, armed forces of the United States, Great Britain, Mongolian troops and the Chinese army of liberators. So Russian-Soviet relations have helped to establish the Mongolian Peoples Republic, its agriculture, industry, its protectors, its banks, and consequently its paper money.

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# From the Editor's Desk

When I accepted the position of editor somewhat over a year ago, I approached the task with a great deal of trepidation. This was something entirely foreign to me. Yes, I had written articles but — being the overseer of The Central States Numismatic Society's means of communication with its membership was something else.

The first issue was an adventure. The second came a bit easier. The Convention of 1979 issue was a pleasure. The post-convention issue practically did itself. Then — a big snag.

I apologize to the membership that so much of the last issue seemed to emanate from me! It was just that none of you had given me any material to work from. Right now, I have an article of two in the "oven" but — The Centinel has a voracious appitite.

Deadline for the Convention Issue is February 1st, 1980. If you have anything worthwhile in the back of your mind, please get it on paper and get it to me before the above date. I need it and will be grateful to you for any material you wish to send.

# FINDING GOLD AND SILVER COINS IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

**By Samuel W. Johnson, Jr., CSNS, ANA, ILLNA**

Just the mention of silver and gold coins should make all CSNS members drool and become extremely interested. When these same people find that the silver and gold is (almost) free, their appetite is whetted to an even higher degree!

Several things must first be done to get this silver and gold. It must be located, then dug out of the ground. All this is done by the use of a metal detector. My locator is an eight year old one built by White's Electronics. Although by today's standards this detector may be considered an antique, believe me it is a superb detector! Many times, it is too sensitive, as it will even find .22 rifle casings four inches to five inches deep, with ease.

Usually, I hunt an area more than 20 miles from my home so I do need transportation. The "it" is a 1963 Chevy with 136,000 miles on it. The Chevy's name is "Green Luke", and how I ever came up with that name is beyond me!

I "dig up the coins, etc." with a knife. I cut a circle plug about four inches in diameter and about four inches deep. I lift the "plug" out of the ground with the knife. Naturally, if the detected item is not in the plug, I just dig deeper. You never know what the detected item will be because a nickel at four inches sounds like a quarter at six inches — get it? A smaller item at a lesser depth sounds exactly like a larger item at a much greater depth. When I have retrieved the detected item, I replace the plug and after the plug is "stomped" in, no one will ever know I dug a hole!

To date, I have "dug up" 22,531 coins. 13,688 pennies, 3,429 nickels, 4,505 dimes, 852 quarters, 57 halves, and one lonely 2c piece. Silver coins found total 3,273, including 142 different dates or mints of pre-1965 dimes. The oldest coin of each denomination is an 1848 cent, 1864 2c, 1866 nickel, 1827 dime, 1895 quarter, and an 1892 half dollar. I have found several complete sets of Roosevelt dimes and only lack six coins to complete a Mercury dime set. Almost 440 war nickels have been found, including six complete sets.

Better date coins include four (yes, four) 1914D cents, 1950D nickels, 1921D VG dime, 1919S F+ quarter, many VF - XF Barber dimes - P.D.O.S., and several hundred coins in the $5.00 to $20.00 range (at retail).

One of the 1914D cents brings back memories. I had been hunting an old park day after day. I had found 11-, 12-, 13- and 15D cents. I found so many that I was convinced that somewhere there was a 14D. About a week later and many 'plugs' later, there it was!!

At the local fairgrounds several years ago I found nearly 20 1918D dimes in VF to XF condition. Why this concentration of 18D's? Your guess is as good as mine. These dimes were buried deep and the sound response from my detector was very weak! Listening for these weak sounds would result in many an 18D dime, a Barber dime, or another early Mercury. One day, sure enough — another weak reading. Thinking it would be another dime, I started digging. What I found was a beautiful 18K gold ring set with five red rubies. I had to quit for the day, as my concentration was ruined.

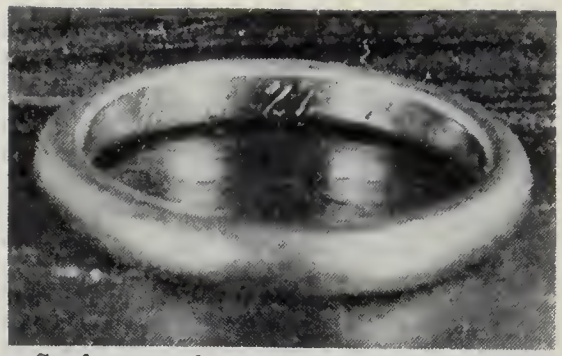
I have found many (71) gold or silver rings. Many are so large they fit my thumb. Many necklaces, bracelets, and lockets of both silver and gold have "seen the sun again" because of my endeavors.

I have also found several hundred 'good for' tokens. I would estimate that approximately 60 percent of the items found were up to four inches deep in the ground an another 40 percent were between four and eight inches deep. Certainly an indication the objects had been there some time!

The past few months (August and September, 1979) here have been extremely dry. The ground is very hard. The majority of my hunting has been in the local high school and local country club parking lots. The high school has yielded 157 coins (22 silver) and the country club 369 coins (47 silver) and the biggest gold ring I ever found. The country club has yielded three Barber halves dated 1897, 1907O and 1908S. Believe me, I spend many hours working hard for these finds.

Total finds at the high school are 926 coins and six good rings and finds at the country club now total 1,110 coins and seven good rings.

Where I hunt for coins poses no problem. I hunt parks, fairgrounds, around old churches and homes, around parking meters, schools, and elsewhere that large groups of people congregate year after year. Obviously, these must be grassy areas. I get permission everywhere.



So far you have heard only the good things about metal detecting. Yes, there is a bad side. Many days I don't find enough to pay for the gasoline to get to the hunting site. I also dig up a lot of junk — like bottle caps, pull-tabs, etc. I don't believe in using a detector that 'discriminates.' Supposedly, using a discriminating detector eliminates digging up all that junk metal and to a certain extent this is true.

But discriminators also reject nickels and rings! Talk to any expert on metal detectors and they will verify this. Suppose I am hunting an area with a lot of old bottle caps. I would constantly be rejecting all the bottle caps and in the process, I would miss many coins. If your detector is set to discriminate, it will!! It will not do two things at the same time.

Often, I find bottle caps and coins. Hard work, but very fruitful. Conclusion — a discriminating detector is as much a hindrance as it is a help. In my experience I have found that people who purchase the discriminator are just plain lazy and will never be successful coin hunters.

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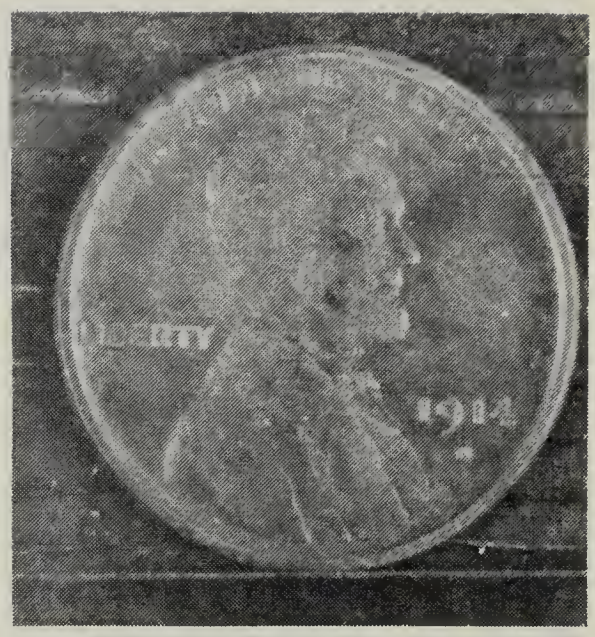
I have no idea what qualities are most necessary to be a successful coin hunter. Desire, persistance, hard work, self-satisfaction, a bit of greed and just being plain 'nuts'! If you blend all these many qualities together in proper proportion, you'll be an excellent coin hunter.

Many beginners purchase the cheapest detector they can find. They are defeating themselves. My suggestion, buy a good used detector. In most cases, a detector costs in the area of $250 to $400. Used, about 25 to 50 percent less and they will still work just as well. Where to hunt? Yards of older homes in your own neighborhood. Although many yards will not yield even $1.00 in coins, others will give up many coins and even rings. Don't give up on 10 to 12 yards, go through 25 or 50. Lost items are everywhere. Persistance pays off, so don't give up too easily.

Coin hunting here in southern Illinois is most enjoyable. It takes one's mind off his every day problems. I have had hundreds of hours of thrills and excitement. Most of the places I hunt are small towns and it is peaceful and quiet. With winter coming fast, I should find another 600 to 1,000 coins before the end of the season. This is the best time to hunt — with the grass dead, the ground extremely moist and easy to dig.

Some of my future goals are: Find my 30,000th coin, 4,000th silver coin, 5,000th dime, and 1,000th quarter — and to break my oldest coin record. I will 'get them all', the only unknown factor is when? I have mounted some of my 'milestone coins' in 2 x 2 holders. Information as to when, where, and how, is printed on the holders. These are enjoyable mementos.

A great deal of satisfaction may be gleaned with a detector by finding recently lost rings which may mean so much to the loser. I have found property markers for owners, tools for farmers, etc., etc. Recently I found



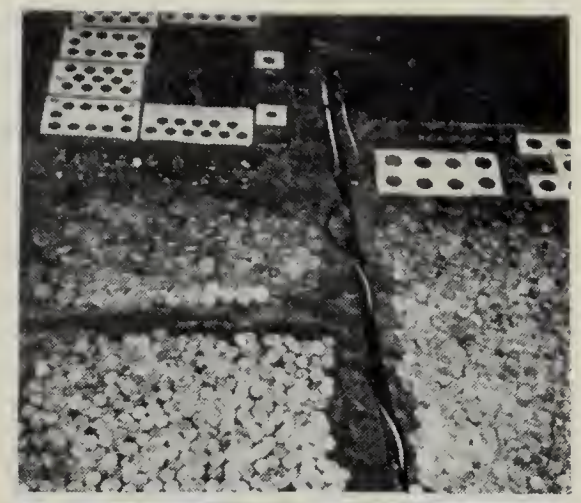
a university ring in less than one minute — in a pile of straw and calf manure!! In another case, I found, after a 30 minute search in the backyard of a new home, a prized gold ring. I refuse all rewards in cases like this. In return, people have allowed me to hunt hundreds of areas which have yielded objects prized by me.

One question has been asked many times. How many coins have you found in one day? The highest number was 369 found around parking meters in St. Louis. I hunted from sun-up to sun-down. The most coins found in one hole? Nine - 7 cents, a war nickel, and a Mercury dime. The most silver coins found in one day? Thirty-six — 7 war nickels, 25 dimes, and four quarters.

I have never found a silver dollar or a gold coin. About once a year I cash in all my non-numismatic finds and buy coins I want and need. All my coin finds are kept in a bank vault. I would welcome correspondence from anyone interested in metal detecting. I do have a limited number of Western and Eastern Treasure magazines that I will send along with a return letter.

No — I do not sell metal detectors, nor am I affiliated with any company that does. I would compliment any CSNS member who may have found more coins than I. (40,000 to 50,000 coins found is becoming more common. Boy, are they superb hunters.) If you have enjoyed this article, think about me, CSNS member No. 3062, while I dig my coins around southern Illinois.

Editor's Note: Mr. Johnson has been a collector since 1950. He specializes in both coins and paper — National Currency from Sparta and Couterville, Illinois. An exhibitor of note and a frequent exhibit winner. He also hunts for antique bottles which he has generously donated to his hometown museum.



The U. S. News and World Report recently reported that counterfeit U. S. notes are a leading export of Colombia, rivaling coffee and cocaine!

## NOTICE: AUCTION HOUSES

Central States Numismatic Society is desirous of receiving proposals for Convention Auctions to be held in 1981 and 1982. Any numismatic firm experienced in conducting public auctions should promptly present a written proposal specifying the amount it is willing to pay to the Society for the privilege of conducting the auction.

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# One Man's Love of New Zealand Coins

**By Andrew Oberbillig**

I have to go round-about to answer the question 'why do I collect New Zealand coins.' I have to say that I collect coins because I like people. This explains why I liked the years I spent in show business so much. I was doing something for people, bringing something into their lives that they might not have had otherwise.

There's nothing more people-related than coins. Governments, made up of people, issue them. People use them to buy the things they need. Many of them commemorate and honor the great people and events in the history of the country they represent and it's people who collect them.

Let me say, there are some very special people in this last category, and one of those who heads the list in my opinion is Mr. Hugh Knight, the Chicago coin dealer. On Christmas Eve in 1964, Mr. Knight presented me with a New Zealand type set, partially completed. He told me that I should be able to complete the type set without too much cost, with the exception of one coin — the 1935 Waitangi crown, which commemorated the treaty of peace made by the British Crown with the Maori aborigines of New Zealand.

I finished the type set on Feb. 6, 1965, and two months later found myself in Chicago Veterans Administration hospital. My "angel," Mr. Knight, visited me there, bringing me a copy of Numismatic News, in which a number of overseas dealers were advertising at that time.

After completing the New Zealand type set, I decided to work on a date set of coins, from 1933 to 1964. Looking through the paper, I found a 4 x 5-inch ad inserted by a New Zealand coin dealer and wrote to him right away. I was disappointed when I received his reply, saying that he could not do business with me because he had no export license.

In that same issue, however, there was a small ad placed by Mr. Robert Perrin, whom I contacted, and who offered me a complete set of the coins for $110. When I sent a check for the coins, Mr. Perrin shipped them. He enclosed a note thanking me for the big order, which, he said, put him in the coin business. The set, which graded Almost Uncirculated to Brilliant Uncirculated, has a value of $575 today. Even more important, though, is that Mr. Perrin and I have established a warm and lasting numismatic friendship through the years.

He introduced me to the New Zealand Numismatic Society, which I joined, and made it possible for me to get hold of a complete set of back issues of the society's journals, so that I could learn about the mintages and other details of the coins in my collection.

In talking with fellow members of the Chicago and East Chicago Coin Clubs, I soon learned that none of them knew very much about the coinage of New Zealand, and decided I could help them to understand more about it by building a display of my coins. The first coin show to which I took my exhibit was in South Bend, Ind., in 1965, and to my suprise and delight, I carried a first-place trophy back to Chicago.

This encouraged me to hit the exhibit circuit, which included the 1966 Diamond Jubilee convention of the ANA, where I won a second-place award in the foreign coins category. Space on the trophy shelf in my Chi-

cago apartment was rapidly shrinking by 1968, by which time I had won 45 first-place and 12 best of show awards.

That year, I was invited to exhibit at the Professional Numismatist Guild convention in Chicago, and it was here that I met Clifford Mischler, Chester Krause, and the distinguished Canadian numismatist, Cale Jarvis.

It was a great honor to win the many trophies that I did, but the really big rewarding was knowing that I was spreading information and interesting more people in my specialty.

In the November 29, 1969 edition of Numismatic News, Mr. Jarvis wrote the following about me in his popular "Cale's Comments" column:

"Rated as the top New Zealand coin and medal collector in North America, Andrew P. Oberbillig (of) Chicago continues to be showered with first and second awards at state and national numismatic events. The information in detail on each piece within a total collection on one subject has brought praise from such authorities as author Richard (Dick) Yeoman of Racine, Wisc., when he said, 'Mr. Oberbillig is a purist and a true numismatist in every sense of the word.'

"His latest exciting find was a unique variety in the Captain Cook dollar which came to him in a package of six purchased via a New Zealand bank."

If I was thrilled by this tribute from a numismatist whom I so highly respected in North America, you can imagine how I felt when, on July 29, 1970, I received a letter from New Zealand's Minister of Finance, R. D. Muldoon, which read as follows:

"Dear Mr. Oberbillig: Your interest in New Zealand coinage has been drawn to my notice and I am pleased to learn that you have had so many successes with your displays of New Zealand coins at the various numismatic conventions in the United States. I am sure that your displays and articles have helped to maintain an interest in New Zealand coins in the United States.

"As a small token of the Government's appreciation of the publicity given New Zealand, I have arranged for you to receive a pictorial book on New Zealand."

That year, I put together an exhibit of medals of Captain Cook, who claimed New Zealand for the British Commonwealth. It was displayed at eight shows throughout the Midwest before it was retired after winning four best-of-show and four first-place awards.

I talked about coins and people when I began this article, and I must continue to do so, not to drop names, but because they have all been so fine

when I mention that in 1973 New Zealand's Ambassador to the U. S., Mr. Lloyd White, invited me to Washington, where he presented me with a volume titled "James Cook and New Zealand," and a group of miniature wood replicas carved by New Zealand's primitive Maori people. He was amazed that I knew so much about his country despite the fact that I had never visited it.

This situation, too, might change, because even as this article is being written, I have received an invitation for a 10-day visit "down-under" in October, which will be New Zealand's springtime, half the usual cost of such a visit. This has to be highest pinnacle of success in a numismatic specialty, and will certainly represent the zenith in my coins-people relationship.

The fun I have had and the success I have enjoyed in collecting New Zealand has led me to give the following advice to collectors, especially the young ones who have a brilliant lifetime of collecting ahead of them: Don't branch out to too many countries. You can do better if you will give the time, and find the books containing the information about what you collect, on a specific country.

The proof, as they say, is in the pudding. I've collected 265 first-place trophies and 45 best-of-show awards as a result of my specialization in New Zealand numismatics. And, God willing, I will bc winging there in Octobcr.

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A dime a gallon for gasoline? A dealer in Berwyn, Illinois, recently offered to accept pre-1965 coins in exchange for gasoline. "Most of the coins we get are 1964 dimes," he said.

Christian Gobrecht designed the gold eagles of 1838 - 1866.

Thc last $1.00 and $3.00 gold coins were struck in 1890.

It may have looked like a good deal to the general public, but any numismatist could tell who was getting the "short end of the stick"! A Chicago auto dealer recently offered to accept gold or silver coins for 1980 Omnis and 1979 Ramchargers. For only $1,000 face in silver you could get the Omni. For a mere $500 face in gold coins, he'd let you have the four-wheel drive pick-up. All heart!!

In 1893, the Arizona gold production totaled 40,811 ounces while silver production totaled 299,405 ounces. Quick, you calculator wizards, how much was it worth then? How much today?

Gibraltar, located at the entrance of the Mediterranean Sea, and a British possession since 1704, has issued its own paper money since 1914.

It was the Hungarian patriots, Count S. C. Wass and A. P. Molitor, who formed the famous gold assay firm of Wass, Molitor & Co. in San Francisco, California, in 1852.

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# SO YOU WANT TO COLLECT ?

## No. 2 of a Series — By Daniel C. Parker, NLG, NEWS

As promised, we shall now endeavor to help you decide on a theme for your collection. We have already suggested several possible themes for your collecting. There are many more. The field is as broad as your imagination cares to make it.

The very first topic for a collection that we suggested to you was the collecting of birds on coins. We cannot tell you why but it seems that every nation in the world has placed at one time or another an eagle or other hawk-like bird on its coinage. A good place to start. However, do not limit yourself to just this one bird.

Some of the tropical countries have birds that defy the imagination with their beauty. Other nations have honored the lowly sparrow, swallow, or other domestic species on their coinage. Visit your local coin dealer, he'll be happy to dig out his stock of coins and allow you to browse through it. He needs your interest to stay in business and if you take time to become a friend, he'll go out of his way to secure coins for your collection.

Another favorite topic on coins are animals. We've seen coins bearing portraits of sheep, goats, horses, dogs, and, yes, even lions. Actually, one could break down animals into domestic and wild should one wish to limit himself.

Several years ago we saw an exhibit of coins which had been assembled because of the shape. It contained the usual round coins, square coins, six-, eight-, and even twelve-sided coins. Some of the scalloped planchets were beautiful and highly eye-catching. The entire exhibit had been artistically chosen and assembled. Obviously, here was a collector who cared about and appreciated his coins. A real prize winner!

We have been, perhaps, giving the impressions that we're 'touting' you away from the collection of United States coins. Not true! We are, however, stressing the more reasonably priced material. One of the most outstanding exhibits we have judged in recent years was entered by a 14-year-old collector with discrimination. It won a best-in-show award in open competition!

What was this phenomenal exhibit? Fourteen Lincoln Head cents. The youngster had very carefully brought the display together with taste and discrimination. What did it show? Everything anyone would want to know about the Lincoln Head cent from a numismatists viewpoint. It had the 1909 cent with the designers initials VDB and another without the VDB. A 1918 cent on which the initials had been returned to the bust of Lincoln.

It went on the late 20's to show the various mintmarks. The World War II steel cents were exhibited. The shell-case copper cents of 1946 and the return to the standard alloy in the late 1940's. The youngster who was showing the coins then displayed very prominently the 1955 double die cent. He explained that it had been a gift from a doting grandfather who lived in the east and had found the coin in circulation and presented it to him. The change in the reverse device in 1958 was the next item of interest, and finally a blank planchet which is quite scarce! The text in the exhibit had been very carefully researched and it was without a doubt one of the finest it has been our pleasure to see. An outstanding display and at a cost of somewhat under $100!

When one can take the time to mount and display one's coins to the public it shows a love of the coins, a

pride in one's accomplishment, and a desire to share with other collectors the coins one owns.

These are just a few of the ideas we have gathered over the years. We write of them simply to encourage your fuller participation in the hobby. You get out of it exactly what you wish to put into it. In the next article in this series, we will endeavor to guide you on where you can acquire the coins you wish to collect.

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You have decided on a theme for your collection. There are so many choices you can make. Birds, animals, coats-of-arms, and yes even fishes. Some of the island countries portray fishes which are beautiful. Make your decision and stick with it. At times you may not add to your collection for months — but then — you may run into a plethora of material.

Where will you find these coins? One of the prime places to look is at your local coin club. Most clubs today sponsor a local coin show at least once each year. Unless the club is fortunate to find a location for its meetings which may be had rent-free it must pay for a meeting room.

(A suggestion) — Some of the local banks or savings institutions have a room which can be had for the asking. Most youngsters bring something to a meeting when they come. You **must** do likewise! A swap can usually be negotiated. What is a **good** swap? The writer's definition is: Are **both** parties to the trade happy after it is made? If so, it is a good swap!

We spoke of a local show. At most, dealers from the area come to the show in the hopes of selling AND BUYING. A dealer, either full or part time, must have material in order to stay in business. He can only get the material by buying at a show. You may be able to negotiate a trade with him. Remember, he is in business and has an overhead to pay.

He must get the better of every trade. However, most all dealers do have what we call a 'junk box'. Do not be misled, many times the writer has found nice material in these boxes. However, it should be very carefully looked over. Yes, we have bought very desirable coins out of a junk box for only pennies. We can remember one in particular — at six coins for a quarter, we picked up more than a dollar's worth. They were coins of the Near East which particularly intrigued us at the time.

Long-time collectors often use the local club to dispose of their surplus material by auction. We must warn you about auctions. Not that the coins are inferior — but one can get carried away in the heat of a spirited auction. Yes, you bid 25c for a coin. Someone else bids 30c, so you bid 35c, only to find your fellow bidder boosting the price to 40c. By the time the 'smoke of battle' has cleared, you find you have paid 60c or even more for a coin which you were prepared to buy for the original quarter bid! When you bid at auction, set a definite limit to where you will go to buy — and stop there!

We cannot recommend beginners buying by mail. One, you cannot see the coin. Two, it can be represented wrongfully. Three, the seller's recommended bid may be highly inflated. After buying, you may have no recourse. Most large and legitimate auction houses have an expensive catalogue to print. The coins are nice, but someone must pay for the printing and distribution of the catalogue. Yes, it is you! Because of the cost of cataloguing, most lots in large auctions sell for $10 or more. Quite expensive for a young collector.

It has been the experience of this writer that nearly every home has 'squirreled' away a few old coins, a

few foreign coins, or an interesting coin of some sort. Talk to your near neighbors. They can be a prime source at a very reasonable price — free!!

We know of a fine collection which features Coats-of-Arms. It is an ego-trip among nations which still have royal heads, to mint coins with the family's coat of arms. A coat of arms means something. It can be explored and defined by searching in a good dictionary or an encyclopedia.

This is something you will have to learn to use — the reference book. We cannot recommend anything more highly than books on the subject of coins. Most references sell for from $2.00 to $20.00 or more. Make your choice. The more expensive, the more complete, and in most cases, the better. We have learned that it is usually cheaper to buy the book before buying the coin.

One of the best investments you can make is the occasional purchase of one of the monthly magazines for the coin collector. Once you become the purchaser of the book, you are on your way to becoming a numismatist! Numismatics is the 'science and study of coins'. There are a thousand things to learn about coins and coinage.

Minting in itself demands a knowledge of metals, methods of minting, processes used, etc. All this will come to you if you but listen to more experienced fellow collectors and those more knowledgeable than you. They, too, were once beginners.

In the next article in this series, we will endeavor to explain the hows and wheres of displaying your coins. It is an art and with a little study, nearly a science. Tune in the next issue.

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Several species of threatened or endangered wildlife appear on the designs of various U. S. coins. They include the bald eagle, the grizzly bear, and the eastern mountain lion.


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